

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 STR-07 OMB-01
CEA-01 COME-00 FRB-03 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04
SIL-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 /133 W
-----110726 202125Z /62

O 201724Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6132
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BRUSSELS 07720

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CHANGE SECTIONAL INFO TO READ
SECTION 1 OF 3 VICE 1 OF 2)

E.O. 11651: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, EAID, CG, BE
SUBJECT: MOBUTU PLAN: BELGIUM TO CONVENE BRUSSELS
MEETING

REF: A) STATE 77244, B) KINSHASA 3530

1. SUMMARY. BELGIAN GOVERNMENT, IN LETTER (DATED
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APRIL 17) FROM FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET TO SECRETARY
VANCE, CONVENES BRUSSELS MEETING ON MOBUTU PLAN,
TO BE HELD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BEFORE THIS SUMMER, HOPE-
FULLY IN JUNE. FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES VIEW CONVOCA-
TION LETTER AS DEVICE TO KEEP PRESSURE ON MOBUTU TO FULFILL
PRECONDITIONS FOR SUCH AN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
EFFORT - ESPECIALLY TO FINISH THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE

MOBUTU PLAN AND TO GET OFF TO A GOOD START IN
NEGOTIATION OF A NEW IMF STABILIZATION AGREEMENT -
WHILE AT THE SAME TIME HEADING OFF ANY POSSIBLE
CRITICISM OF BELGIANS BY MOBUTU TO THE EFFECT THAT THEY
ARE RENEGING ON THEIR COMMITMENT TO COORDINATE
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION EFFORTS TOWARD ZAIRE.
END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER'S DEPUTY CHEF DU CABINET (ONKELINX)
GAVE US LETTER DATED APRIL 17 FROM FOREIGN MINISTER
SIMONET TO SECRETARY VANCE CALLING FOR THE CONVENING
"AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BEFORE THIS SUMMER" OF THE LONG-
AWAITED BRUSSELS MEETING FOR INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION
AND COOPERATION FOR THE MOBUTU PLAN FOR THE ECONOMIC
RECOVERY OF ZAIRE (FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ENGLISH TEXT
SENT SEPTEL, ORIGINAL LETTER IN FRENCH POUCHED TO
DEPARTMENT AF/C JUNIOR). LETTER REVIEWS HISTORY TO
DATE OF THE MOBUTU PLAN AND PROPOSES A "FIRST MEETING
OF TOP-LEVEL OFFICIALS AND EXPERTS". LETTER STATES
THAT "MEETING WILL BE OF AN EXPLORATORY NATURE AND
WILL NO WAY AIM AT OBTAINING DEFINITE COMMITMENTS
FROM GOVERNMENTS," AND NAMES AMBASSADOR ANDRE
ERNEMANN, BELGIAN PERMREP AT THE UN AS CHIEF OF BELGIAN
DELEGATION. MFA ZAIRIAN DESK OFFICER (JAENEN)
TOLD US THAT BELGIANS WANTED ABLE DIPLOMAT WITH
EXCELLENT CONTACTS IN MULTILATERAL AND FINANCIAL
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ORGANIZATIONS TO HEAD BELGIAN DELEGATION AND CHOSE
ERNEMANN OVER TWO OTHER POSSIBLE CANDIDATES, ANDRE
DE STAERCKE, FORMER AMBASSADOR TO NATO, AND
VAN CAMPENHOUT, FORMER DIRECTOR OF WORLD BANK AND
IMF. HE ASSURED US THAT BELGIUM STILL CONSIDERS
THIS A "WORKING-LEVEL" AS OPPOSED TO A "POLITICAL-
LEVEL" MEETING.

3. ONKELINX TOLD US THAT PART OF THE PURPOSE OF THE
LETTER WAS TO KEEP PRESSURE ON THE ZAIRIANS TO GET ON
WITH THE TASKS WHICH ARE THE PRECONDITIONS FOR
HOLDING A BRUSSELS MEETING. HE SAID THE FIRST OF
THESE, AGREEMENT ON THE TERMS OF IMF TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE TO THE BANK OF ZAIRE, SEEMS TO BE WELL
ON ROAD TO A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION. ONKELINX SAID
HE MET WITH IMF'S TENCONI THE WEEK OF APRIL 10
AND GAVE US COPY OF LETTER SENT TO TENCONI BY BANK
GOVERNOR BOFASSA (POUCHED TO AF/C JUNIOR) SPELLING
OUT THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE IMF-PROVIDED
"PRINCIPAL DIRECTOR". ONKELINX SAID TENCONI KEPT
IMF OUT OF BANK'S DISORGANIZED AND FLATHERBEDDED
ADMINISTRATIVE SIDE, WHICH INCLUDE RUNNING A BUS LINE

FOR EMPLOYEES AMONG OTHER INEFFICIENT ACTIVITIES.
ON THE QUESTION OF NATIONALITY OF THE IMF PROVIDED
PRINCIPAL DIRECTOR AND FOUR COUNSELORS, ONKELINX
SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN A SUGGESTION FROM BOTH
THE IMF AND KINSHASA THAT A BELGIAN NATIONAL, A M.
FRANCOIS, WHO HAD FORMERLY WORKED IN THE BANK OF
ZAIRE, BE NAMED THE IMF'S PRINCIPAL DIRECTOR. HE
SAID BELGIAN GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON QUESTION OF NATION-
ALITY OF PRINCIPAL DIRECTOR IS THAT HE SHOULD NOT BE
A BELGIAN (NOR FROM ANY OTHER COUNTRY WITH SUBSTANTIAL
ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN ZAIRE, E.G. FRANCE, FRG,
THE U.S.), ALTHOUGH BELGIUM WOULD BE WILLING TO
PROVIDE EXPERTS FOR THE OTHER FOUR JOBS IF THE IMF

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XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-07 CEA-01
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 BRUSSELS 07720

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CHANGE SECTIONAL INFO TO READ
SECTION 2 OF 3 VICE 2 OF 2)

WANTS. TENCONI TOLD ONKELINX THAT IMF WOULD SEEK

QUALIFIED SCANDINAVIAN, SWISS, AUSTRIAN OR CANADIAN
OFFICIAL FOR THE POST SINCE MOBUTU DOES NOT LIKE
THIRD WORLD OFFICIALS MESSING AROUND IN ZAIRE'S
AFFAIRS. ONKELINX SAID TENCONI WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT
SIZE OF TASK FACING THE IMF IN THE BANK OF ZAIRE AND
WARNED ONKELINX NOT TO EXPECT RAPID IMPROVEMENT IN
BANK'S PERFORMANCE AFTER IMF TEAM IS IN PLACE.
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SIL-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 /133 W
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4. ONKELINX SAID OTHER PRECONDITIONS FOR HOLDING
BRUSSELS MEETING WERE A "GOOD START" OF NEGOTIATIONS
FOR THE NEW IMF STABILIZATION AGREEMENT AND A

SATISFACTORY FINAL DRAFT OF THE MOBUTU PLAN. HE SAID THAT IMF HAD RECEIVED THE GOZ INVITATION TO GO TO ZAIRE BUT REQUIRED THREE WEEKS' LEAD TIME TO PREPARE FOR MISSION. HE ANTICIPATED THAT IMF TEAM WOULD GO TO KINSHASA IN MAY. ON THE QUESTION OF A FINAL DRAFT OF THE MOBUTU PLAN, HE TOLD US THAT WORLD BANK OFFICIAL FALTAS HAD RECENTLY READ PLAN'S FIRST DRAFT IN KINSHASA AND HAD TOLD BELGIANS THAT DOCUMENT WAS "IMPOSSIBLE
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TO SELL" AND HAD TO BE COMPLETELY RE-WRITTEN. ONKELINX SAID THAT THIS WAS EXACTLY WHAT THE MALDAGUE GROUP HAD POLITELY TOLD BOKANA IN BRUSSELS IN FEBRUARY, BUT BOKANA, USING EXCUSE OF HIS WIFE'S ILLNESS, HAD BEEN DOING VIRTUALLY NO REDRAFTING AND INSTEAD HAD SPENT THREE WEEKS IN BRUSSELS AND PARIS ON VACATION OVER EASTER. HE SAID THAT SIMONET WAS SENDING SEPARATE LETTER TO MOBUTU INFORMING HIM OF THE LETTER CONVENING THE BRUSSELS MEETING AND "ASKING HIS HELP" BY URGING THAT FINAL DRAFTING OF MOBUTU PLAN BE FINISHED AND THAT DOCUMENT BE SENT DIRECTLY TO THE INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. PROVIDING THESE PRECONDITIONS ARE MET, ONKELINX THOUGHT THAT BRUSSELS MEETING COULD BE HELD IN JUNE, OR AT LEAST BEFORE EVERYONE BREAKS FOR THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS. JAENEN TOLD US EARLIER THAT THERE HAD BEEN DISCUSSION OF INSERTING A DATE FOR THE BRUSSELS MEETING IN THE LETTERS TO KEEP THE PRESSURE ON MOBUTU TO FINISH THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE PLAN BUT IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE LETTER IN ITSELF, WITHOUT A SPECIFIC DATE, WAS PRESSURE ENOUGH. BOTH ONKELINX AND JAENEN SEPARATELY STRESSED THAT ANOTHER PURPOSE OF THE LETTER CONVENING THE BRUSSELS MEETING WAS TO AVOID ANY POSSIBILITY THAT MOBUTU COULD, AT SOME FUTURE DATE, ACCUSE BELGIANS OF GOING BACK ON THEIR PROMISE OF HOLDING A BRUSSELS MEETING ON THE MOBUTU PLAN.

5. DURING COURSE OF EXTENDED CONVERSATION ON MOBUTU PLAN, ONKELINX MADE SOME COMMENTS WHICH ARE HELPFUL IN ANSWERING SOME QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTELS. HE SAID BELGIUM SHARED U.S. VIEW THAT IBRD CONSULTATIVE GROUP FOR ZAIRE WOULD BE THE MOST APPROPRIATE MECHANISM IN THE LONG RUN FOR ADDRESSING THE PROBLEMS OF ZAIRE'S
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ECONOMIC RECOVERY (REF A, PARA 3), BUT HE SAID THAT

THERE IS OPPOSITION TO THAT POSITION IN THE WORLD BANK ITSELF, WITH SOME EXPERTS POINTING OUT THAT THE GROUP IS NOT A PERMANENT INSTITUTION AND WARNING OF THE DANGERS TO EXISTING BANK PROCEDURES OF SETTING UP A PERMANENT GROUP. ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE ECONOMIC MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY ZAIRE APRIL 7 (REF B) HAD BEEN CLEARED WITH THE IMF, ONKELINX SAID THAT TENCONI TOLD HIM NO. HE SAID THAT BANK GOVERNOR BOFASSA HIMSELF WAS "SURPRISED" TO HEAR OF THE NO-DEVALUATION PLEDGE.

6. ONKELINX SAID THAT BELGIANS LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING LATEST DEVELOPMENTS WITH TREASURY ASSISTANT BERGSTEN AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE LANNON WALKER IN BRUSSELS NEXT WEEK. CHAMBERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, MEETINGS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS
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Draft Date: 20 apr 1978
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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TAGS: EFIN, EAID, CG, BE
To: STATE
Type: TE
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